

The Vein Institute of Blue Bell

Fort Washington Radiological Associates

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PRE-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS SCLEROTHERAPY

Sclerotherapy is an outpatient procedure for treatment of small veins just below the skin's surface. A small needle provides access to the targeted vein allowing the injection of a detergent-like substance, called a sclerosing agent, into the vein's interior wall. The vein wall is irritated, becomes sticky, and seals shut, allowing it to disappear, and for blood to be diverted to other healthy veins in the leg.

How long will the procedure take?

An appointment for Sclerotherapy usually takes about 30 minutes and is usually conducted over the course of 3 to 6 sessions. These sessions occur over a period of 6 to 8 weeks. The resolution of all targeted veins involved in the procedure may take several months.

What can I expect before, during and after the procedure?

The procedure is performed in our outpatient office either by the physician or advanced practice professional. It does not require any sedatives.

During the procedure a sclerosing agent is injected into targeted veins. The procedure usually causes minimal discomfort upon injection. We use FDA approved Polidocanol. They are considered extremely safe and hypoallergenic. While allergic reactions are uncommon, patients should be aware of any irritation or pain at the injection site that occurs post-treatment.

Day of Procedure Preparation

Please read all instructions as part of preparing for your appointment:

1. Take any regular medications the day of the procedure.
2. There are no pre-operative medications required for sclerotherapy.
3. Fasting is not required; eat a normal breakfast or lunch.
4. Bring an iPod or headset if you'd like to listen to music during the procedure.
5. Compression stockings should be purchased prior to your appointment and brought with you the day of the procedure. They will be used immediately following treatment, and during the following 3 weeks. Trying your compression stockings on prior to your visit will ensure that they fit comfortably.
6. Inform us of any allergies to antibiotics or steroids.

The Sclerotherapy Procedure

1. Once you arrive for your appointment at our center, you will change into a gown.
2. Your vital signs will be checked, and you'll be asked to relax on the table. There are pillows and blankets available for your comfort, and if you brought a listening device, you can begin listening to music.
3. A sclerosing solution is then injected through a very fine needle directly into the vein. This process may cause some mild discomfort.
4. The number of injections during each procedure varies depending on the size and location of the vein. Each appointment will last about 30 minutes.
5. You will be asked to put on your compression stocking immediately following the procedure.

If you have any questions or concerns about your sclerotherapy procedure, please call our office at 267-416-9534.